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USDA Forest Service Publication Request
for Ely Times

F.C. (FS Use): NFRG1722

Notice of Opportunity to ObjectUSDA Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Ely Ranger District,
White Pine and Nye Counties, Nevada

As the Responsible Official, District Ranger, Jose Noriega prepared a draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for the Pancake-Monte Cristo Wild Horse Gather. The draft decision would authorize the Ely Ranger District to utilize the Environmental Analysis and the Environmental Assessment prepared for the Pancake Complex by the Bureau of Land Management and work in cooperation with the Bristlecone Field Office and Tonopah Field Office to gather and remove approximately 85% of the existing excess wild horses (approximately 2,342) within and outside the Pancake Complex to achieve and maintain AML and administer or booster population control measures to gather and released horses through phased gathers over a period of ten years from the initial gather. This would allow the agencies to achieve management goals and objectives of attaining a herd size that is at the low range of AML before geldings are included, to reduce wild horse population growth rates, and to obtain a thriving natural ecological balance on the range as required under the WFRHBA. In addition, it would authorize the agencies to also capture 100% of the current population of excess wild horses from within and outside the Jakes Wash Herd Area, which would likely require multiple gathers over a ten-year period to capture animals missed or that evade capture during a prior gather. No wild horses gathered from the Jakes Herd HA would be released under this alternative. All of the animals gathered from the HA would be removed and transported to BLM off-range corrals where they would be prepared for adoption and/or sale to qualified individuals, or for off-range pastures.

The final Environmental Assessment and Gather Plan (DOI-BLM-NV-L060-2021-0005-EA) was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is available on the National NEPA Registrar web page at <https://go.usa.gov/x7RUa>.

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This proposed decision is subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Objections will only be accepted from those who submitted project-specific written comments during scoping or other designated comment periods in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated opportunity to comment.

Individual members of organizations must have submitted their own comments to meet the requirements of eligibility as an individual. If an objection is submitted on behalf of a number of individuals or organizations, each individual or organization listed must meet the eligibility requirement of previous written comment. Names and addresses of objectors will become part of the public record.

Objections must be submitted within 45 days following the publication of this legal notice in the Ely Times. The date of this legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure evidence of timely receipt (36 CFR 218.9).

Objections must be submitted in writing to the Objection Reviewing Officer. Objections may be submitted via mail to: Objection Reviewing Officer, Intermountain Region USFS, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401, or delivered during business hours (M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm); or by fax to (801) 625-5277. Electronic objections, in common (.doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt) formats, may be submitted to: objections-intermtn-regional-office@usda.gov with Subject: Pancake-Monte Cristo.

Objections must include (36 CFR 218.8(d)): 1) name, address and telephone; 2) signature or other verification of authorship; 3) identify a single lead objector when multiple names are listed on an objection; 4) project name, Responsible Official name and title, and name of affected National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s); 5) Sufficient narrative description of those aspects of the proposed project objected to, specific issues related to the project, how environmental law, regulation, or policy would be violated, and suggested remedies which would resolve the objection; and, 6) description of the connection between your objections and your prior comments. Incorporate documents by reference only as provided for at 36 CFR 218.8(b).

For additional information, contact Jose Noriega, District Ranger at (775) 289-0176.

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